

## **Title of presentation**

University Living Lab: Transforming the ability of universities to support sustainability transitions through partnership based teaching and learning

## **Presenters**

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## **Abstract**

Students are an undervalued force for change (O'Brien, 2019). Our University Living Lab brokers applied research framed around the Sustainable Development Goals between organisations and students who can tailor it for their degree assessment (O'Brien et al., 2021). Over 1000 students have worked with a huge range of partner organisations, including international consultants, governments, health bodies, charities and local businesses. Impacts range from work on urban resilience that was presented to the Rockefeller Foundation in New York, to consultancy on municipal climate change policy. Two students have been employed by organisations they did their research for many more attribute employability to this experience. Our lab is an open source of research, and pedagogic knowledge and is recognised as a case study for Education for Sustainable Development by Advance HE.

The Living Lab approach unites teaching and research whilst transforming the ability of universities to support sustainability transitions (Evans et al., 2015). Drawing on student voice, this presentation critically shares the scalable approach of the University Living Lab (O'Brien, et al., 2021). It is suggested that whilst we are all familiar with the transformative power of Education for Sustainable Development (UNESCO, 2017) we, arguably, think less about developing education through sustainability (Yulita, 2020). By working in partnership, respecting knowledges and effecting changing whilst leaving nobody behind, whilst we teach the SDGs – and affect change for sustainable

development – we are using the SDGs as pedagogy. We warmly welcome partnership and collaboration through the lab.

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